

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church

March 2026 Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Andy

Dear JPC family,

In this Lenten season I am reminded of the importance of stepping outside of one's comfort zone and listening to other voices and traditions. This reminder is apparent in the Lenten study and sermon series on the Seven Last Words of Christ. The Seven Last Words are not central to our Presbyterian tradition; they come from a more Roman Catholic / high-liturgical background along with the stations of the cross. That does not mean that we cannot use them, or find spiritual lessons in them, (the opposite is more accurate) but only that they do not come naturally to us as a spiritual avenue of illumination.

The term that came up in last Sunday's sermon and at the Wednesday Lenten study is *Biblical harmony*. A *Biblical harmony* is when people take different stories or accounts in scripture and merge them into one. The most common Biblical harmony is whenever we have a Christmas pageant. The angels visiting the shepherds and the wise men are not in the same story in the Bible. The annunciation, the no-room-in-the-inn, the angels singing to the shepherds, glory-to-God-in-the-highest? These are all in the account from Luke. The magi visiting, the angel telling Joseph to keep his commitment to Mary, Herod's slaughter of the innocents? That's in Matthew. Mark does not include a story of the birth of Jesus, and John's beginning is much more metaphysical than a baby in a manger. But when we tell the story in a Christmas pageant or read the story on Christmas Eve, we merge the various accounts into one. That's a Biblical harmony.

The Biblical harmony that is the Seven Last Words of Christ are the snippets and phrases that are in the various gospel accounts of Jesus on the cross. They are stand-alone statements (which is why we are looking at a different one each Sunday) but they also together paint a broader view of our messiah's suffering and sacrifice.

-continued page 2

Inside This Issue

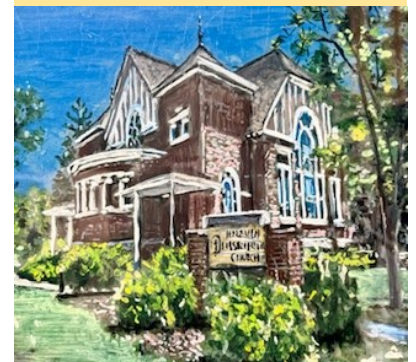
Message from Andy	1 & 2
Deacon Update	2
Session Notes	3
January Finance News	3
Signs of Spring	4
H4H ReStore	4
Hope Center Breakfast	5
March Birthdays	5
Save the Date	5

Weekly Happenings

Mondays: 9am Women's Coffee at Black Canyon in Wales

Wednesdays: 8am Men's Breakfast at Sunnyside Up in Dousman

Sundays: 9:30am Worship Service



A Message from Pastor Andy continued

Both these ideas can be—and are—true: we are to treat each account as its own without the influence of others and we can look for wisdom in combining them.

This Lenten season I hope we each can find the wisdom we need as we journey in faith to the cross together. If you would like a deeper dive into the Seven Last Words we are meeting for study and fellowship on Wednesday nights in the chapel at Three Pillars in Dousman. Fellowship at 5pm with the study time running roughly from 5:30 to 6:15. All are welcome.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Andy

Deacon Update

Throughout February, the Deacons faithfully served with heartfelt compassion, uplifting our community through thoughtful and meaningful expressions of care and concern:

- Sent 20 heartfelt cards to members in need of encouragement or celebration
- Offered support through visits, phone calls, carpooling, grocery runs, and rides to church for two members

Donated 22 pounds of food to the Waukesha Food Pantry

We are especially grateful for your continued commitment to the Hope Center Breakfast, where we served approximately 60 individuals this month. In addition, we were blessed to provide desserts for about 50 guests on February 11. As we look ahead to March, we welcome volunteers to contribute a hot breakfast entrée, fruit, or coffee.

Please also stay tuned for an upcoming Hope Center Spring Drive announcement.

In serving others, we embody Christ's call to love with grace and walk in humility. We are deeply thankful for the kindness, generosity, and joyful spirit that shines so brightly within our church family.

If you or someone you know could use a helping hand, please feel free to reach out.

With heartfelt gratitude, The Deacon Team



Session Update

Here is a summary of the business items discussed at the February 11, 2026 session meeting.

February 11 motions:

- To approve the minutes of the January 14 session meeting and the February 1 Annual meeting. **Approved.**
- To elect Mary Anne Spencer as treasurer. **Approved.**
- To elect David Carr as clerk. **Approved.**
- To elect Sue Snyder and David Carr to be the session representatives on the nominating committee. **Approved.**
- To appoint Bruce Tammi to be the commissioner for the next Presbytery business meeting. **Approved.**

February 11 other business:

- The 2026 Financial Review Committee will consist of Margaret Wieland, Thea Ragatz, Walter Schulz and a fourth individual yet to be identified.
- Use of the fellowship hall on February 28 was approved.
- It was agreed that non session members can be the chairperson of any of the standing committees.
- There was a lengthy discussion based on some issues presented in a letter that was sent to the session by a JPC member. The focus of the conversation was on the issue of preaching political issues from the pulpit.
- Estimates for roof replacement range from \$35,700 to \$56,700.
- Sunday school class is being held before service on Sundays.

Next session meeting is scheduled for March 11.

January Finance News

Income (*pledged, recorded, loose*) 32,753.61

Expenses 28,484.44

(these numbers include some prepaid income and expenses)



Signs of Spring in Wales

Three hopeful signs of spring appear during March.

1st: Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8th.

2nd: The Spring Equinox on March 20th forecasts longer growing days.

3rd: The most significant sign for gardeners is the plethora of seed and flower catalogs filling mailboxes that trigger a carefully planned response. Seeds are started, designs are finalized and the land is cleared of winter's rubbish. Gardeners anticipate planting, growing and sharing the harvest with neighbors. Does that describe you?



Here at JPC, we offer two options for people who want to create beauty or feed the hungry even if you don't have their own garden.

- 1) The JPC Green Thumb Club: Please contact Dave Christiansen or Linda Ravelo about how you may assist in caring for our flower gardens right around our very own church.
- 2) The Journey Garden (*Milwaukee Presbytery Mission Project*) that grows and distributes fresh vegetables to a local food pantry that supports our inner city friends in need. Please contact Dave Carr or Linda Ravelo to be a part of this important journey.

NOTE: There will also be a Journey Garden organizational meeting for volunteers on Sunday March 22nd at 12:30pm located at Delafield Presbyterian Church.

H4H ReStore Happenings

Come join in the fun, and meet the community!

ReStore Center: Saturday March 14th from 10:00am-1:00pm

Jerusalem has signed up to work at the Habitat for Humanity Restore Center on the second Saturday of each month from 10am until 1pm. Our duties include stocking donated items out on the sales floor, unloading donated items as they are brought in, helping customers load purchased items into their vehicles and straightening out items on the sales floor. To sign up and volunteer, go to the site below or speak with Jerry Gapinski.

<https://vhub.at/jpc>

Hope Center Breakfast

Monthly we are looking for volunteers to help out with the Hope Center Breakfast, to prepare and serve meals to those less fortunate living in the Waukesha area. Our next opportunity to serve is next Thursday March 5th starting at 8:45am for set up. We are usually done serving and cleaning up by around 9:45am.

Sign up in the narthex to serve, prepare food and purchase selected items on the list.



“One Hour” of our time can make such a huge difference in the lives of those residing in our community.

March Birthdays



10th Jan Dobrich

26th Carol Pasbrig

16th Judy Mueller

27th Chris Parsons

17th Patti Bailey

30th Kent Lorenz

17th Kyle Roberts

31st Makenzie Zywicki

25th Billie Alderden

Save The Date

The 227th Presbyterian General Assembly will be in Milwaukee June 22 through July 2, 2026.

The members of JPC will be hosting a luncheon for Presbyterian Church USA on Sunday June 28th.

There will be more details about how you may assist in the months to come, so stay tuned.



Our Location Address:

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church
207 W Main St., Wales, WI 53183

Our Mailing Address:

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church
PO Box 88, Wales, WI 53183

Our Phone Numbers:

Church Phone 262-968-3408

Rev. Holmes 414-544-2188

Our e-Mail Addresses:

Pastor Andrew Holmes:
revandrewholmes@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Bruce Parker
jpcoffice207@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

Pastor Andrew Holmes: Wednesday's 9am-12 noon and Thursdays 10am-1pm

Admin. Bruce Parker: Monday's 10am-Noon and Thursdays 11am-2pm

JPC Website & YouTube

JPC Website: Visit us for more information on the web at jpcwales.org.

YouTube Steaming Live Church Services:

Every Sunday morning starting at 9:30am with a posting every Monday.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jerusalem+presbyterian+church)

[search_query=jerusalem+presbyterian+church](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jerusalem+presbyterian+church)

Jerusalem Presbyterian Church
PO Box 88, Wales, WI 53183

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE